Extcntion of N.H. 5 between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada

3460. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway No. 5 between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada is being extended;

(b) if so, the central assistance made available in this regard; and

(c) the target date for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) Details of the two projects involving widening to four-lenes of Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam Section of NH 5 in Andhra Pradesh, which are under implementation of Central Government, are given below:

(i) Four-laning of Anakapally-Visakhapatnam (km. 358/0 to km 395/ 875) Section of Vijaywada-Visakhapatnam Section, including four-laning of km 0 to km 2/837 Section of Vis-akhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Section and strengthening of Ankapally bypass-Estimated cost is Rs. 118 crores. The project is targetted for completion by June, 1997.

(ii) Four-laning of km. 3.4 to km. 13 of Vijaywada-Visakhapatnam Section, including strengthening of km. 13 to km. 53.80 and km. 69.2 to km. 75 and construction of a bypass to Eluru town between km 53.80 to km 69.2—Estimated cost is Rs. 135.4 crores. Award of contract is under litigation. It is too early to indicate the target date of completion.

Calculation of Gratuity under Gratuity Act 1972 of Port Trust Employees

3461. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court delivered any judgement during August, 1984 regarding calculation of amount of gratuity payable under the Gratuity Act, 1972 of Port Trust Employees;

(b) if so, the date of effect of above judgement taken by Calcutta Port Trust and Madras Port Trust;

(c) whether all the employees of Calcutta Port Trust have been informed and given the benefit of above order, especially to retired persons; and

(d) if not, the action Government propose to take to inform all the effected retired employees regarding outcome of the order?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1st July 1980 in respect of Madras Port Trust and January 1986 in respect of Calcutta Port Trust.

(c) and (d) Changes in the mode of Calculation of payment of gratuity are automatically effected by the Calcutta Port Trust in respect of all the employees including retired employees to which the changes are applicable. These changes are not communicated to each individual employees separately.

Road Development Project through Privatisation in Maharashtra

3462. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received for approval any Road Development Projects to be completed through privatisation from Maharashtra Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when they were received;

(c) the present status of each of these projects;

(d) the reasons for the delay in clearing these projects;

(e) by when the proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c) The details of proposals received from the State Government of Maharashtra during different interval of time for financing under BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) basis and their status is as under:

S.No.	Name of the work	Status of the Proposal
1.	Improvement & maintenance of *Thane-Bhiwandi* bypass from Km. (-) (V115 to Km 23/509 including links & loops.	Proposal has been approved. The work has been taken up by Ideal Road Builders Limited under BOT and is likely to be completed by June, 1997.
2.	Constn. of *Panvel Bypass* on NH 4	Extended MOU signed on 9.1.95 between MOST, PWD Maharashtra and ILFS (Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Service Limited).
3.	Four laning of NH 4B	T.P. has been approved
4.	Constn. of major bridge across *Patalganga* river near Kharpada Village in Km. 2674 of PMP Road.	Contract agreement received, but the State Government has been advised to modify the clause of traffic guarantee.
5.	Constn. of major bridge across *Wainganga* river in mile 39/1 (Km. 491/0) including approaches on Raipur-Nagpur Section of NH 6, near Bhandara.	T.P. has been approved. The Bids have been invited.
6.	Strengthening existing two lane pavement from Tapi Bridge at Dabhashi to Km. 233/ 0 of Mumbai-Agra Road NH 3 i/e constn. of ROB in Km. 228/0 at *Nardhana* and its approaches an NH 3 in Ohule Distt.	T.P. has been approved.
7.	Constn. of ROB with approaches at km. 399/Q near *Fekart Village* and Km. 418/800 near Nashlrabad Village including strengthening Km. 400/200 to 428/00 on NH 6 in Jalgaon Distt.	Inclusion of the proposal under BOT has been approved in principle.
8,	Constn. of missing link Zarap to Patradevi of Panvel-Mahad-Panjim road, NH 17, Section *Ul-Banda to Patradevi* (Km. *W* S78 to 21/508=2.75 Km)	Inclusion of the proposal under BOT has been approved in principle

S.No. .	Name of the work	Status of the Proposal
9.	Four laning of road between Vadgaon to Lonawala Km.34/0 to 61/600 and *Lonawa-la-Khandala* bypass between Km. 61/600 to 67/785 on Mumbai-Pune road.	T.P. has been returned to State P.W.D. with observations. The modified T.P. is awaited from the State P.W.D.
10.	Constn. of *Paldhi bypass* and strengthening existing two lane pavement on NH 6 from Km. 442/0 to 465/0 in Jalgaon Distt.	T.P. has been approved.
11.	Constn. of R.C.C. *flyover* bridge on *Westerly diversion* outside Pune city on NH 4 at Warje junction in Km. 27/160 to 27/ 680.	The proposal has been returned to State P.W.D. with observations.
12.	Constn. of major bridge across *Pinglairiver* including approaches on NH 6 in Amrawati Distt.	-do-
13.	4-laning of Nagpur-Hyderabad road NH. 7 from Km. 10/860 to 30/0 (Nagpur-Butibori Section).	Inclusion of the proposal under BOT has been approved in principle.

Thus, it is likely to take some more time for their final approval/clearances to these projects except the proposal indicated at SI. No. 1 which already stands approved by the Union Government.

Loss due to strike by Transporters

3463. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR: SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: SHRI S.N. KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total damage done to the economy due to the recent strike of the transport vehicle owners;

(b) the demands of the transporters and which of those have been met;

(c) the circumstance which led the transport/truck operators to launch a nation wide strike; and

(d) the steps taken to alleviate their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKAT-RAMAN): (a) The loss cannot be quantified.

(b) to (d) The transporters went on a nation wide strike w.e.f. 01-04-1997 to protest against the proposals regarding imposition of 5% service tax on goods transport operators and hike in Motor Insurance Premium. Several rounds of discussions were held between the Ministry of Finance and the representatives of All India Motor Transport Congress and it was agreed as under:—

(i) While working out the modalities for the collection of service tax rendered for the transport of goods by road, Government is willing to change mode of collection in such a manner that the tax would not be collected from road transport operators.